

Salisbury, North Carolina
May 17, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Susan W. Kluttz, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell, Councilmen William (Pete) Kennedy, William Brian Miller, and Paul B. Woodson, Jr.; City Manager David W. Treme; City Clerk Myra B. Heard; and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: None

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kluttz at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilmen Kennedy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kluttz led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Kluttz welcomed all visitors present.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Kluttz noted the following change to the Agenda:

Add after Item 16 - Council to receive a presentation on the local options sales tax proposal being discussed by Rowan County Board of Commissioners.

RECOGNITION OF ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Mayor Kluttz recognized the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) Student Government Association (SGA) for winning the Top "C" Campus Award at the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association conference. She introduced SGA President Dawn Evans, SGA members Ms. Lisa Stiller, Ms. Rebecca Bunts, Mr. Andre Eddleman, Ms. Tina Williams, Mr. John Elliot, Ms. Kimberly Greene, Ms. Jennifer Glover, and Ms. Michelle McCallop. She also recognized SGA Advisors Ms. Natasha Lipscomb and Ms. Emily Baumgardner, and RCCC President Dr. Carol Spalding, Vice-President Ms. Gaye McConnell, Vice-President Dr. Rodney Townley, Vice-President Dr. Jarrett Chandler, Vice-President Mr. Mike Ernst and Vice-President Ms. Jeanie Moore. She welcomed and congratulated everyone in attendance from RCCC.

Mayor Kluttz explained Council wanted to recognize the RCCC SGA for receiving the Top "C" Campus Award at the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association Conference for its participation in the first Rowan County Bond Referendum for RCCC, which passed in November 2010. She noted the SGA donated \$10,000 and over 300 hours of volunteer work toward the Bond Referendum, and SGA members joined President Spalding and the Board of Trustees to address over 30 civic clubs. She stated the SGA also staffed polling sites and led a successful tobacco-free campaign on their own campus. She concluded by stating Council was very proud of the SGA.

Ms. Evans addressed Council thanking them on behalf of the SGA members. She stated the SGA was very happy to help with the Bond Referendum and under the guidance of President Spalding found purpose and direction. She expressed the SGA's gratitude for Council's recognition.

Mayor Kluttz presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Evans on behalf of the SGA.

ISSUE BADGE AND SIDEARM - LIEUTENANT KAREN BARBEE

Mayor Kluttz introduced Deputy Chief Steve Whitley who recognized four retiring police officers. Deputy Chief Whitley stated these officers represent 140 years of collective experience.

Deputy Chief Whitley introduced Lieutenant Karen Barbee. He asked Council's consideration to award Lieutenant Barbee her sidearm and badge in recognition of her service. He stated Lieutenant Barbee has been with the department almost 32 years, and was the fifth female hired by the Police Department and the first female command officer to retire from the Police Department. He noted her career includes time as a canine officer, canine instructor, community service officer, D.A.R.E. teacher and community advocate. He concluded by stating her compassion for citizens is only eclipsed by her commitment to the City's mission.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell made a **motion** to authorize issuing retiring Lieutenant Karen Barbee her badge and sidearm. Mr. Woodson seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Ms. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Kluttz thanked Lieutenant Barbee for the outstanding job she has done for the City. She stated it was very obvious how much Lieutenant Barbee cares for the community and she will be missed.

ISSUE BADGE AND SIDEARM - MASTER POLICE OFFICER PHIL SIMMONS

Deputy Chief Steve Whitley introduced Master Police Officer Phil Simmons, and requested Council's consideration to award Officer Simmons his sidearm and badge in recognition of his service. He stated Officer Simmons served in a variety of assignments; including the original traffic enforcement unit, SWAT team, and assistant team leader for patrol team. He concluded by noting Officer Simmons is best known as a field training officer, teaching young police officers to do things the right way.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to authorize issuing retiring Master Police Officer Phil Simmons his badge and sidearm. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Ms. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Kluttz thanked Officer Simmons for the outstanding job he has done. She noted many young people come to Officer Simmons for advice and she thanked him for all he has done for the City.

ISSUE BADGE AND SIDEARM - MASTER POLICE OFFICER MARK SHUE

Deputy Chief Steve Whitley introduced Master Police Officer Mark Shue, and requested Council's consideration to award Officer Shue his sidearm and badge in recognition of his service. He noted Officer Shue is an outstanding field training officer, and was an original member of the SWAT and canine teams. He stated Officer Shue is recognized across the State as a canine evaluator and trainer. He added Officer Shue was instrumental in Tactical Medics and will be tremendously missed by the Police Department.

Thereupon, Mr. Woodson made a **motion** to authorize issuing retiring Master Police Officer Phil Simmons his badge and sidearm. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Ms. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Kluttz thanked Officer Shue for the outstanding job he has done. She also noted Officer Shue helped raise thousands of dollars for underprivileged children through the Toys for Tots campaign, and Council is very grateful.

ISSUE BADGE AND SIDEARM - DETECTIVE DANNY DYLES

Deputy Chief Steve Whitley introduced Detective Danny Dyles, and requested Council's consideration to award Detective Dyles his sidearm and badge in recognition of his service. He stated Detective Dyles served approximately 23 years with the Police Department. He noted

Detective Dyles is the ultimate “go to” guy, and is very respected in the courtroom, yet very humble and down to earth. He explained Detective Dyles has served on State and Federal task forces and is well respected in State and Federal court rooms, and the department will miss him. He concluded by stating all the retiring officers have invested in the young officers and bring out the best in them.

Councilman Miller stated it was very humbling to thank the Police Officers, noting he sleeps well at night because they are on the job.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to authorize issuing retiring Detective Danny Dyles his badge and sidearm. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Ms. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Kluttz thanked Detective Dyles for an outstanding job and his dedication to the City, and noted he will be missed.

Mayor Kluttz also recognized Ms. Vicky Hare who is retiring from Police Communications but not present today. She concluded by stating it is always sad to see people this dedicated leave the City, but Council wishes them the best and thanks them for their service.

RECOGNITION OF GIS COORDINATOR KATHRYN CLIFTON

Mayor Kluttz introduced Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris to recognize GIS Coordinator Kathryn Clifton for receiving the designation of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Certified Trainer. Mr. Morris stated the City is very fortunate to have had Ms. Clifton serve as an ESRI Instructor for several years. He explained she is a benefit to the City because she can train others who come to the City for training, and she also trains staff at no cost to the City. He pointed out all departments benefit from Ms. Clifton’s expertise, noting she is one of only eight certified trainers in the southeast region. He concluded by stating he would like to commend her to Council for this extra effort and the service she provides to the community.

Mayor Kluttz congratulated Ms. Clifton on the excellent job she does, noting she makes the City very proud.

Mayor Kluttz asked Ms. Clifton to explain GIS for those who may not be familiar with it. Ms. Clifton stated GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems, noting GIS manages information about geographic locations that is used to provide service to citizens.

MUSIC CREATED TO HONOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY’S SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH SALISBURY, ENGLAND.

Mayor Kluttz introduced and welcomed Mr. Davis Cook. Mr. Cook described the Sister-City relationship between Salisbury, England and Salisbury, North Carolina, which began with a visit of delegates from Salisbury, England in May 2001. He noted both Councils met and passed

a Resolution formalizing the Sister-City relationship, which was memorialized with an Art and History Trail marker outside of the City Hall building. He stated during the 2001 visit he and Mr. Mark Bias hosted a breakfast for the visitors, which helped create a lasting friendship over the past ten years. He commented this friendship solidified his deep affection for England, and primarily the Church of England. Mr. Cook stated a defining characteristic of the English Church is its rich musical tradition. He noted during the May 2001 Salisbury, England visit, St. Luke's Episcopal Church was preparing its celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of its Parish, which was a Parish in the Church of England. He indicated he sought a way to honor both ties, and felt the best way to experience what England has to offer is through services at one of its great cathedrals or collegiate institutions, where choirs of men and boys sing the services as they have done for hundreds of years. Mr. Cook stated it seemed fitting to him to use his talents as an amateur church musician to create a service of Evensong to pay homage to this cornerstone of the Anglican musical tradition. He noted he began working on the service in September 2003 and pulled together a group that included singers from both St. Luke's and the community at-large. He stated the group is now ready to tackle more challenging music and honor the musical traditions of England. Mr. Cook commented he began writing music last year, and it occurred to him that May 2011 marked the tenth anniversary of the Sister-City relationship with Salisbury, England.

Mr. Cook explained Evensong is evening prayer that is sung, and the text of the church service is set to music. He noted many musicians who have written Evensong have given them names as a means of dedication or to distinguish the Evensong service from other services. He explained "Sarum" is the Medieval Latin word for Salisbury, and during the Medieval times a liturgical service specific to Salisbury, England became one of the most widely used services in Europe. Mr. Cook stated the Church also developed its own form of "Plainsong" or Gregorian Chant known as "Sarum Plainsongs." He announced the title of the music he has created is "Sarum Service," and it pays homage to the musical legacy of England, and Salisbury, England in particular. He stated the premier of this work will be held Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and all are invited to attend. He then presented a copy of the music program to Council.

Mayor Kluttz thanked Mr. Cook and lauded what he has done. She stated this is a beautiful way to honor Salisbury, England and she encouraged the public to attend.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Kluttz proclaimed the following observances:

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ROWAN COUNTY	
PUBLIC LIBRARY	2011
COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH	May 2011
NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH	May 2011
LETS GET CONNECTED DAY	May 21, 2011
VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY	May 30, 2011

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 3, 2011.

(b) Temporary Street Closure for Brick Street Live concert series

Close the 100 block of East Fisher Street from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and the 100 and 200 blocks of South Lee Street from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Thursday, May 26, 2011 and Thursday, June 23, 2011 to accommodate the Brick Street Live concert series.

(c) Temporary Street Closure for Pops at the Post event

Close the 100 block of South Church Street and the 200 block of West Fisher Street from the corner of West Fisher Street and Church Street to the Salisbury Post parking lot Saturday, June 4, 2011, from 1:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. for the Pops at the Post event.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT

Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris introduced Mr. Sam Foust, Executive Director of the Salisbury Housing Authority, and Ms. Marianne Navarro, representative of the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office in Washington, D.C. He noted a team from HUD will be in town to provide guidance for the Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan. He explained Salisbury received a planning grant for improvements in the West End neighborhood, specifically the Civic Park Apartments.

Mr. Foust indicated a workshop was held today to discuss the Choice Neighborhood Transformation plan and a great deal of information was shared. He noted Salisbury is one of 17 national winners of the Choice Neighborhoods planning grant, which is a great opportunity for Salisbury. He commented a lot of input from many different organizations will be needed as the project moves forward and plans are made for an application for an implementation grant. He recognized the grant writing team who worked on the successful Choice Neighborhoods planning grant: Planning Grant Coordinator Wayne Stoggner; Mr. Jeff Yonkey, Salisbury Housing Authority; Mr. Bill Burgin and Ms. Donya Schaubel, Ramsey, Burgin, Smith Architects; Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris and Senior Planner Janet Gapen.

Mr. Foust indicated representatives from the West End Community Organization have provided valuable input, and their continued input will be sought throughout the project. He noted a community meeting with the West End neighborhood will be held tonight at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Foust noted Mr. Chris Stearns, Director of the Greensboro HUD office, and Mr. Michael Williams, Director of Public Housing for North Carolina, along with HUD representatives from Washington, D.C. and Kansas City will provide guidance and suggestions to help the team think about possibilities it may not have yet considered.

Ms. Navarro commented Salisbury is a beautiful town and she congratulated the City and the Housing Authority for being one of 17, out of 119 applications, to be awarded the planning grant. She stated the HUD team will continue to work with the City and the Housing Authority throughout the next few months to develop the Transformation Plan. She explained the Choice Neighborhood initiative aims to transform distressed neighborhoods with public housing into viable mixed-income neighborhoods with access to high performing schools, transportation and jobs. Ms. Navarro discussed the goals of the Choice Neighborhood grant, and noted it aims to transform distressed public housing into housing that is energy efficient, mixed-income, and physically and financially viable. She stated it also seeks to support positive outcomes for families who live in the targeted development and surrounding neighborhood.

Ms. Navarro noted the group that met today discussed the Salisbury Vision 2020 Plan and the Consolidated Plan and how the Housing Authority plans link directly into the City's Plans. She indicated the grant is a 24-month grant and the end result is to develop a Transformation Plan that can be viable with or without future funding from HUD. She stated all interested parties are invited to attend the community meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. at 1400 West Bank Street to provide their input.

Mayor Kluttz commented the Vision 2020 Plan is an important Plan for the City and she is happy to know Mr. Burgin, who chaired the committee that developed it, is also a member of the Choice Neighborhoods grant planning team. She noted neighborhoods, housing, public safety, accessibility and appearance are greatly valued in the City and this new grant is very exciting. She stated Council has worked hard to help at-risk youth and this is a way to help them as well. Mayor Kluttz commented she is very excited about the grant and grateful Salisbury is the smallest City in the nation to have received it.

RESOLUTION FORMALLY ADOPTING THE ROWAN COUNTY/CITY OF SALISBURY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PLAN.

Transit Manager Rodney Harrison presented a copy of the final Rowan County/City of Salisbury Community Transportation Service Plan. He introduced Mr. Brett Wallace, Senior Transit Planner and Engineer with HDR Engineering, who worked with staff to develop the Transportation Service Plan.

Mr. Wallace provided an overview of the Plan:

- Five-year plan to identify strategies and action items for transit
 - Service enhancements
 - Administrative/organizational performance
 - Funding availability

- Both City and County transit services are examined
 - Opportunities for coordination to be identified
 - How can service be offered most efficiently
- Plan required by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to receive State funding

Mr. Wallace described the work items:

- Inventory and assess existing services
- Survey riders and gain public input
- Examine demographic conditions
- Compile unmet transit needs
- Analyze management and service alternatives
- Assess coordination opportunities
- Develop five-year plan of strategies and action items

Mr. Wallace discussed the input received from passengers:

- Strengths
 - Feeling of safety
 - Friendly drivers
 - Clean vehicles
- Areas of Improvement
 - On-time performance
 - More frequent service
 - Longer operating hours on Saturday
 - Offer Sunday service

He then reviewed the Assessment of Current Services and the strengths and weaknesses:

Service

Strengths

Route #1

- Notable ridership to apartments at Maxwell Street and 15th Street

Route #2

- Connections to many destinations
- Highest ridership
- The portion of the route serving the Health Department is on time

Route #3

- Connections to many destinations
- Demographics show good transit market
- Significant ridership to East Spencer
- Meeting the needs per ADA legislation

Americans with
Disabilities Act
(ADA)

Lash Drive Connector

- Area needs service

Weaknesses

Service

Route #1

- Too many stops and closely spaced stops
- Route is too long
- Lowest ridership of the three routes
- No weekend service
- Low out-of-city ridership (Spencer) except at Greyhound station
- Questionable ridership to Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Route #2

- Too many stops and closely spaced stops
- Railroad crossing on Jake Alexander Boulevard creates delays
- Low ridership area between Brenner Avenue and Salisbury Mall

Route #3

- Too many stops and closely spaced stops
- Railroad crossing on Fulton Street creates delays
- Concerns about intermingling due to travel time and unclear billing practices

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Lash Drive Connector

- Transfers to fixed route service are cumbersome

Mr. Wallace reviewed the recommendations of the plan for joint activities for Rowan Transit System (RTS) and Salisbury Transit System (STS):

- Establish joint service promotion activities, including the consideration of a dedicated staff person to market services provided by STS and RTS
- Enhance coordination of rides with transportation providers in bordering counties
- Coordinating with each other, RTS and STS should fully document their operational service areas
- Hold a joint goal setting meeting every two years, and a system-specific goal setting meeting annually. Evaluate goals previously established and assess progress

He then reviewed the recommendations for activities for STS:

- Meet with the Human Resources Department to establish a succession plan
- Implement relevant components of marketing plan
- Further develop the fixed route concepts presented in this plan to include refined routing (unserved or underserved areas), scheduling, public input and identification of bus stop locations and shelters
- Negotiate a formal Memorandum of Understanding with RTS that outlines the fare structure, bill procedures, cancellation policies and service standards for ADA complementary services, emphasizing maximum vehicle utilization in the least expensive manner
- Contract an independent third-party to serve as a certifier of riders for ADA service

- Identify opportunities to meet human service agencies' transit needs (i.e.: Medicaid) with fixed routes

Mr. Wallace discussed the Projected System Expenses and Revenues:

Expense Item	Year 1 (FY2011)	Year 2 (FY2012)	Year 3 (FY2013)	Year 4 (FY2014)	Year 5 (FY2015)
Administrative and Operations - Existing	\$1,049,606	\$1,091,590	\$1,135,220	\$1,180,703	\$1,227,936
Mobility Manager/Outreach Coordinator (half compensation; shared position)	\$0	\$22,500	\$23,399	\$24,337	\$25,310
Implement Marketing Plan	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Detailed analysis of possible route changes (contract consultant)	\$0	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contract ADA Certifier	\$10,000	\$10,400	\$10,816	\$11,249	\$11,699
Operating – Limited Expansion	\$0	\$0	\$199,113	\$242,715	\$252,425
Total Expenses	\$1,062,606	\$1,159,490	\$1,368,548	\$1,459,004	\$1,517,370

Revenue Source	Year 1 (FY2011)	Year 2 (FY2012)	Year 3 (FY2013)	Year 4 (FY2014)	Year 5 (FY2015)
Passenger Fares	\$113,896	\$117,313	\$120,832	\$124,457	\$128,191
Non-Transportation Revenues	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
Federal Assistance – Section 5311	\$282,632	\$288,285	\$294,050	\$299,931	\$305,930
Federal Assistance – Section 5316	\$5,000	\$40,700	\$24,127	\$25,094	\$26,098
Federal Assistance – CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$159,290	\$194,172	\$201,940
State Assistance – SMAP	\$237,983	\$243,463	\$248,377	\$253,392	\$258,508
Local Assistance – Government	\$420,005	\$466,547	\$518,594	\$558,583	\$593,226
Total Revenues	\$1,062,606	\$1,159,491	\$1,368,548	\$1,459,006	\$1,517,371

Mr. Wallace pointed out that although this is a five-year plan, funding for transportation changes constantly, and the plan should be revisited annually as federal, state, and local budgets change. He noted the plan should serve as a framework to enable the City to apply for additional state and federal funds that may become available.

Councilman Woodson commented on the revenue growth anticipated for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, and noted it indicates a large increase. Mr. Wallace stated CMAQ funds are available to fund operations for up to three years for new services. He noted the expansion costs, as shown, assume the costs will be funded through the CMAQ grant, which is an 80% grant.

Councilman Miller clarified if the plan is adopted and funding becomes available the steps could then be implemented. He commented by adopting the plan Council is not confirming it will implement everything in it, but if funds are available it identifies how Council would like to use the funds. Mr. Wallace confirmed Mr. Miller is correct.

Mr. Harrison pointed out the language in the Resolution before Council indicates the plan is based on the availability of funds on the federal, state and local level.

Councilman Kennedy commended Mr. Harrison, staff and the Transportation Advisory Board for their work on developing the plan and indicated he looks forward to seeing it implemented.

Thereupon Mr. Woodson made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution to adopt the Rowan County/City of Salisbury Community Transportation Service Plan. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ROWAN COUNTY/CITY OF SALISBURY COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PLAN.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 13, and is known as Resolution 2011-13.)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BETTER HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION

(a) Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris addressed Council regarding recommendations developed by the Advisory Committee for Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization, as presented to Council at its May 3, 2011 meeting. He reviewed Council's Outcome 2 - Improve neighborhoods and safety for all areas of the City, and Goal 4 - receive and evaluate recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization. He noted the Resolution of Intent authorizing the Committee was adopted September 21, 2010, and the Committee members were appointed November 11, 2010. He stated the Committee held its first meeting November 22, 2010, and is providing its recommendations to Council today, 173 days from beginning.

Mr. Morris reviewed the Committee activities:

- Seven committee meetings
- Five topical presentations (current neighborhood conditions, neighborhood mapping, Street Crimes Unit, Block Works Program, Preservation and Housing)
- Staff visit to Greensboro Minimum Housing Commission
- Preliminary Report to City Council during Council Retreat
- Public forum

Mr. Morris noted the public forum was held February 24, 2011, with approximately 110 citizens attending. He stated topics of interest were identified and voted on by those in attendance, and 12 general areas were identified which were:

1. Code Enforcement
2. Rental Housing Inspection and Certification
3. Landlord Responsibilities
4. Crime/Public Safety

5. The Court System and Rental Housing
6. Community Appearance
7. Data base and information
8. Tenant responsibilities
9. Pit Bulls
10. Incentives and Investment
11. Education about Housing Rights and Standards
12. Neighborhood Revitalization, Cohesion

Mr. Morris stated from these topics Draft Objectives and Potential Actions were developed. He indicated the Committee recommends a two-track process: advocacy and education, and enforcement. He then reviewed the Proposed Implementation Strategies for these Objectives:

- Establish a City Council appointed Advocacy and Fair Housing Commission to promote neighborhood health, fair housing and tenant/landlord relationships
- Meet quarterly with staff to develop programs and receive reports on activities related to housing and neighborhood conditions
- Distribute educational materials to community residents summarizing the Tenant and Landlord Handbook – which clearly addresses tenant rights, and tenant/landlord responsibilities
- Provide a forum for third-party conflict resolution of issues related to fair housing and tenant/landlord relations
- Partner with neighborhood groups such as the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance and the Historic Neighborhoods Alliance to improve community conditions
- Leverage local resources to improve neighborhood infrastructure and amenities
- Promote affordable housing, home ownership and investment by supporting the efforts of the Salisbury Community Development Commission and Community Development Block Grant
- Support efforts to address neighborhood concerns related to hazardous dog breeds
- Maintain data bases to identify evicted tenants, slum landlords, tenants who damage property and crime information
- Promote efforts to improve the eviction process by amending local ordinances to be consistent with state legislation
- Establish a Code Enforcement Board by re-purposing the Zoning Board of Adjustment to utilize administrative reviews as a function of minimum housing standards inspections and compliance
- Ramp-up Code Enforcement with sufficient resources to focus on problem areas and chronic offenders of City Codes
- Review and amend City ordinances to create strengthened, common-sense, minimum housing standards
- Utilize a debt collection agency to recover unpaid abatement costs
- Utilize the City View software to identify repeat violators of minimum housing standards and other code violations
- Identify geographic concentration of code violations to target enforcement efforts, especially related to vacant and boarded-up houses

- Consider expanding CDBG efforts to additional neighborhoods (i.e. Green Hills, North Main, Cone Mill neighborhood, etc.)
- Pursue an aggressive program of removing blighting influences from at-risk neighborhoods
- Step-up law enforcement through the Special Street Crimes Unit to target high-crime areas
- Build awareness of the Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group (S.N.A.G.) as a method of citizen involvement in reporting crime and city code violations
- Administer a Demolition by neglect Ordinance in local historic districts

Mr. Morris discussed the Rental Housing Inspection/Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy. He stated House Bill 554 is currently in the General Assembly, and would require counties and cities to have reasonable cause before inspecting residential buildings or structures. He then read the section of the Bill that would impact the Committee's recommendation:

"In no event may a city (i) require any registration of residential rental property; (ii) adopt or enforce any local ordinance that would require any owner or manager of rental property to obtain any permit or permission from the city to lease or rent residential real property; (iii) require that an owner or manager of residential rental property enroll or participate in any governmental program as a condition of obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy; or (iv) levy a special fee or tax on residential rental property that is not also levied against other commercial and residential properties"

Mr. Morris stated he is not sure of the bill's current status but wanted to make Council aware that it may be an impediment to the concept of a Rental Unit Certification of Occupancy.

Mr. Morris noted Council has provided funds for the acquisition of CityView software, which is a code enforcement management software that will allow staff to:

- Automate and track case activities
- Create a permanent case history
- Organize inspection activities
- Relate code enforcement violations to parcels
- Utilize mapping capabilities
- Provide accountability and reporting tools

Mr. Morris indicated staff is working to implement the software and training will begin May 23, 2011.

Mr. Morris noted there are several options Council may wish to pursue after receiving input from the public:

- Adopt the recommendations and instruct staff to develop an implementation plan
- Defer adoption and make adjustments to the recommendations. Instruct staff to develop an implementation plan based on any adjustments to the proposed policies

(b) Mayor Kluttz convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization.

Ms. Anne Lyles, 409 East Bank Street, stated she has lived in the Brooklyn-South Square Historic District for over 20 years, and has lived with the problems of dilapidated properties. She noted things have improved, but there are more problems to be addressed. She stated the problem houses are usually those owned by people who do not live in the City, and are rented or boarded-up and left vacant. Ms. Lyles indicated she and her family have restored 9 properties in the Brooklyn-South Square District in an effort to help clean-up the neighborhood. She stated if houses are demolished the historic character will be lost, and there needs to be a way to get these properties into better hands. Ms. Lyles noted she attended two of the Committee meetings and was disturbed by the tone of the meetings. She commented she felt the neighborhood-oriented members of the Committee were talked down to by other members, who were landlords. She stated she did not think the Committee was a fair representation of the community, and she even witnessed rudeness. She indicated she understands there are legal concerns in regards to registration and inspection of rental properties, but there has to be accountability. She stated she is not implying all landlords are bad, because she understands it is difficult to deal with renters. She noted she is sorry the Committee was unable to take more action, but she thinks there is still hope by establishing the two recommended Commissions to actively work on this problem. Ms. Lyles stated it is important for these two groups to have equal representation of neighborhood people and landlords since they all have an interest.

Councilman Kennedy asked Ms. Lyles if she is in support of the recommendations. Ms. Lyles stated she does support the recommendations, because she thinks the City needs to keep working on this issue.

Mr. David Wood, 105 Sudley Circle, stated he thinks the biggest problem with this plan is registering rental units. He commented when people move into a house they have the option to rent it or not, and when they get behind in rent they avoid the landlords. He stated the City has many ordinances now that are not enforced and he is not sure where the money will come from to fund this. He noted something must be done to keep taxes down, but this would require taxes to be raised.

Ms. Barbara Perry, 131 West Bank Street, stated although this plan is not exactly what the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance recommended, it is a very big step in the right direction. She noted she agrees with Ms. Lyles that the new Commissions need to be as balanced as possible, and she urged Council to consider the recommendations.

Mr. Andrew Pitner, 618 Wiley Avenue, stated he thinks the City needs a Commission to address housing problems. He noted he appreciates the work done by the Committee, but he thinks they have fallen short on several items. He stated a rental registration and inspection program is very important because there are too many houses that do not meet minimum code. He added the minimum code is not thorough enough to address the problems, and he thinks the Code Enforcement Officers need more tools. Mr. Pitner encouraged Council to defer adoption and consider adding a rental registration and inspection program. He noted there is a lot of older housing stock in the City, and special care needs to be taken in historic and special study districts.

Ms. Sue McHugh, 910 North Main Street, stated she is a representative of the Historic Neighborhood Alliance. She noted the organization is very grateful to have come this far on this issue. She noted the Neighborhood Alliance held a candidates forum during the election, and the three issues discussed were a preservation plan, code enforcement, and a housing commission. She indicated both the forum and the public forum on housing were well attended, and the public supports these efforts. She also encouraged Council to defer action because she does not think the current plan has enough enforcement components. Ms. McHugh stated if the ordinances cannot be enforced she is not sure how it can impact the current situation.

Mr. Robert Cobb stated he is a landlord and has been in the rental business since 1962. He noted he has 120 units, and the suggestions that have been made are unnecessary. He stated he is not sure who has these problems, because as a landlord tenants give him problems, but he has no problem keeping up his houses. He questioned why inspections are needed because someone will look at the house before agreeing to rent it. He noted he has problems with tenants tearing up things but it is just part of the business. Mr. Cobb indicated if there are absentee owners the neighbors should call and report the problem, but he thinks a registration program is ridiculous.

Ms. Lorraine Reida, 418 East Fisher Street, stated she has lived in the City approximately four years and in Rowan County since 1997. She referred to Mr. Cobb and stated he is probably an excellent landlord but there are many who are below par. She commented there are many loopholes that allow tenants and landlords to skirt the regulations. She stated the Brooklyn-South Square neighborhood is becoming better and better, but could still be improved if there were less rentals and more home ownership. She urged Council to make continual improvements.

Mr. Calvin Turner, 923 Locke Street, stated he is a member of the Better Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization Committee, and he thinks the Committee did its best. He commented they made the recommendations to help the City do a better job to keep both the landlords and tenants in line. He stated he thinks a housing commission could work out the differences between the two. He commented he thinks the Committee did a good job and the best it could do.

There being no one else present to address Council, Mayor Klutz closed the public hearing and thanked everyone who addressed Council.

Councilman Woodson thanked those who attended the Committee meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated she attended five of the seven Committee meetings, and she thanked the Committee members for their contributions. She noted the meetings were long and at times, heated, adding that is not always a bad thing. She stated the Committee members had the courage to state their opinions at the meetings and fully discuss the issues, which came from their passion for the community. She commented she realizes there may be people who are disappointed rental inspections is not a recommendation from the Committee, however, having a Housing Commission as a recommendation is much more than she anticipated. Ms. Blackwell stated she is pleased with the recommendations, and she supports the outcome.

Mayor Kluttz indicated she appreciates the time and effort given by the members of the Committee. She stated housing is a complex problem without an easy solution. She noted she was initially concerned about placing fines on people who cannot afford to repair their houses during the current economy. She stated during her tenure on Council she has seen laws change for very good intentions, but sometimes they impact the wrong person. She added there are good landlords in the community, and she would not want a good person to become hurt by restrictions meant to target those who are not doing the right things. She stated a common theme she has heard is absentee landlords and those who neglect their property. Mayor Kluttz indicated she was not surprised people argued and became upset during the Committee meetings, and she thinks it is healthy to have those discussions during Committee meetings. She stated having issues discussed in citizen committees to bring recommendations to Council helps Council make decisions. She noted she would recommend deferring adoption of the recommendations at this time, and she would like Council to discuss them individually. She added Council should start as soon as possible.

Councilman Miller indicated he thinks Council supports housing and condemns substandard living conditions, but he thinks the difficult part is in the details of how the plan is implemented. He commented he thinks there is still a loose understanding of what is being created and what exactly Council is being asked to implement. He stated he does not think a rental registration program is needed because the majority of the landlords are doing nothing wrong. He commented he sees no reason to allocate municipal resources to inspect a population that is doing things right. He added he does not think the plan is quite to a point of having action items for Council to debate. Mr. Miller stated substandard living conditions will not be tolerated, but what is proposed in the plan has the potential to put neighbors in opposition to one another. He commented he understands what is trying to be accomplished, but he does not understand what tools are to be used to get there. He stated he thinks the current Code Enforcement process is working and the new software is a good step. Mr. Miller commented he sees the SNAG group and the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance serving as a de facto housing commission based on the way they operate with citizen input and advocacy.

Mayor Kluttz noted during the public hearing it was stated a problem is rental property, and home ownership is the key. She commented the Community Development Commission (CDC) was created to address home ownership. She noted when it was implemented 14 years ago she thought it was the answer to help neighborhoods, but over the last 14 years the world and economy have changed. She stated not everyone can own a house and renting is best for them. She indicated the CDC, whose purpose was to put people in homes, has changed its focus to keeping people in their homes and foreclosure prevention. She stated she thinks the Committee

created excellent recommendations, but she thinks Council may feel more comfortable if areas of the plan are refined.

Ms. Blackwell suggested a Council Committee be formed and noted out of respect for the Committee's many hours of work, she would not want to leave the next step undefined. Mayor Kluttz asked if there was a consensus among Council to form a Council Committee to prioritize the recommendations and bring to Council. By Consensus, Council agreed to a Council Committee.

Mr. Miller stated he thinks there needs to be additional debate, and he is not sure if it should be staff or Council. Mayor Kluttz noted staff could bring the issues to Council one at a time for discussion. Mr. Miller stated he thinks the work probably should be done at the Committee level for thorough discussion.

Mr. Morris commented there are many elements that feed into minimum housing standards, and he thinks it would be more expedient to identify two Council members to work with staff to put the plan in a more strategic framework. He noted staff has a great deal of information at its disposal and perhaps the Committee could meet and report back to Council.

Councilman Kennedy thanked the Committee for its hard work and noted although the members started off at opposite ends, they reached a middle ground. He suggested Councilman Miller and Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell serve on the Committee to work with staff. Ms. Blackwell and Mr. Miller agreed to serve on the Council Committee.

Mayor Kluttz appointed Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell and Councilman Miller to serve as a Council Committee to work with staff to formulate a strategic implementation plan.

Mayor Kluttz thanked everyone who served on the Committee and those who attended the public forum and today's public hearing. She noted Council is committed to working on this issue and appreciates citizens understanding that this is not a simple task.

ROWAN COUNTY LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

City Manager David Treme indicated he asked Assistant City Managers Doug Paris and John Sofley to provide information to Council regarding a local option sales tax proposal that was discussed at the Rowan County Board of Commissioners' meeting, Monday, May 16, 2011.

Mr. Paris noted the Rowan County Board of Commissioners discussed pursuing a one-cent local option sales tax to put on the ballot in November 2011. He stated this is a very important discussion that could have a large impact on every municipality in the County.

Mr. Paris explained there is currently a one-cent temporary sales tax in place that everyone in the County pays, but the General Assembly wants to sunset the tax. He noted Governor Beverly Perdue proposes to continue the tax as a way to help balance the State budget. He pointed out this is not the same tax being discussed by Rowan County, but if the State removes the temporary tax then the local option sales tax could take its place resulting in the same sales tax rate for citizens.

Mr. Paris stated if the tax is put on the ballot and passes, an article in the Salisbury Post estimates it could generate \$8.8 million for Rowan County and its municipalities. He noted staff used this year's figures and estimates it would generate \$10.7 million. He stated this would have an incredible impact on the City's 2012 budget. He indicated North Carolina General Statute, Article 39 details how the money is to be distributed between the County and its municipalities.

Councilman Woodson asked if the entire amount of sales tax revenue would come to the County. Mr. Paris stated the estimated \$10.7 million would be for the entire County and its municipalities. Mr. Miller noted there is a current one-cent tax proposed to be removed by the State, and if this tax takes its place it would be considered as no change. Mr. Paris agreed and noted the current one-cent was levied by the State.

Mr. Woodson clarified there is currently an 8% sales tax rate, but with the proposal the current one-cent sales tax would be removed and replaced by a local one-cent tax, and the money would be returned to the County and cities. Mr. Sofley stated the current one-cent tax is a State sales tax only.

Mr. Paris pointed out the municipal boards have no decision in this proposal other than to express their opinions. He noted the Rowan County Board of Commissioners will decide whether to add the proposal to the referendum to raise the tax levy. Mayor Kluttz asked if this will only be done if the State removes its one-cent tax. Mr. Paris stated the proposal is not contingent upon the State removing its tax, but would give the County an opportunity to keep the rate the same if the State should remove its tax. He commented the funds could be used to help pay for unfunded mandates and lower the property tax rate. Mr. Sofley pointed out the General Assembly will have to pass a bill to allow the County Commissioners to authorize the referendum, and then the referendum will have to pass by a vote of citizens.

Mr. Woodson asked if the County would still have the right to levy the one-cent tax if the State remains at 8%. Mr. Paris responded it would not.

Mr. Paris commented one concern raised by the County Commissioners is that the State would attach strings to the funds if approved. He noted currently the law states the funds are allowed for any public purpose a board is authorized to take, so under this framework the Commissioners concerns would be taken care of. Mr. Paris stated if the local option sales tax occurs, it could offset the damage caused by moving forward with revaluation in regard to each municipality's budget.

Mr. Sofley indicated he reviewed the last 12 months of sales and use tax from the North Carolina Department of Revenue to determine what has been received and how the funds were distributed. He stated during the last 12 months \$10.7 million was the amount generated, and of that amount \$7.4 million went to Rowan County, \$1.7 million to Salisbury, and the remaining \$1.6 million was divided among the remaining municipalities.

Mr. Paris stated this would generate a sizeable amount of revenue for the County and each municipality, and each board would have the authority to decide how it is spent. He indicated in the City's proposed budget a tax rate increase of \$.052 is recommended in order to

remain revenue neutral. He pointed out \$.052 cents is equivalent to \$1.4 million and noted to give Council an idea of the impact, the proposed local option sales tax would generate \$1.7 million.

Mr. Sofley cautioned Council that although this would be very beneficial, it has to pass the General Assembly, and be approved by the County Commissioners, and approved on a referendum in November. He added it would not provide help for the coming year's budget.

Mr. Paris indicated the County Commissioners adopted a Resolution to pursue the one-cent local option, and he pointed out the Resolution included language that no strings should be attached to the funds so local boards can determine how the money is spent.

Mayor Kluttz asked if the County Commissioners understood the funds would be shared with the City. Mr. Paris indicated it was not addressed during the meeting, but noted the funds are required to be split by State law. He added it is the City's expectation that if this moves forward the funds will be split with the municipalities. He noted the municipalities in the County are facing the same issues the County is facing, and what is good for the County will be good for the municipalities.

Mr. Sofley stated he is concerned because there is a precedent where the General Assembly passed a sales tax option, the ¼ -cent option, where all funds go to the County, and the City receives no portion. Mr. Paris noted this language was part of a Medicaid package brokered between the counties and the State to offset costs due to Medicaid. He noted the sales tax was for a specific purpose, but in this case the one-cent local option would be for general purposes.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted Mr. Paris compared the proposed \$.052 property tax increase to the revenue that could be generated from the proposed one-cent sales tax and asked him to clarify. Mr. Paris stated the estimated revenue the City would receive under the local option sales tax is \$1.7 million. He noted currently the City is looking at a \$.052 cent increase in the tax rate to remain revenue neutral, and this increase represents \$1.4 million. Ms. Blackwell asked how the City will gain money if the State already has a one-cent option in place. Mr. Sofley explained the one-cent levied by the State is returned entirely to the State and no portion is shared with the City.

Mr. Miller stated the State is in a budget deficit and is not likely to release a source of revenue.

Mayor Kluttz asked if the County could request to levy the tax without sharing it with the municipalities. Mr. Paris stated he does not think this would happen, especially in a time when towns are under the same budget issues as the County. He commented the sales tax is largely generated in the urban areas, and it would create a situation where City residents would be subsidizing County government. He added in the past the General Assembly has made sure those that generate the revenue see some benefit from it.

Mr. Paris commented the main difference for the local option sales tax is that citizens would be paying the same amount of sales tax, but a portion would be returned to the community. He added it will also allow the citizen's property tax to be lowered if each town board so chooses.

Mayor Kluttz asked if any action is required from Council. Mr. Paris stated if it is Council's interest to pursue this, staff will work in support of the County on this initiative.

Mr. Treme noted everyone who makes a purchase will be paying the same amount if this is implemented, and citizens could possibly pay less in property taxes. He stated this will help alleviate the sting of the revaluation which should have been postponed. He thanked Mr. Sofley and Mr. Paris for gathering this information for Council. He also congratulated the County for considering this issue.

By consensus, Council agreed to support the County's efforts on this initiative.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE FY2011-2012 CITY BUDGET

City Manager David Treme provided a brief overview of the proposed FY2011-2012 City budget. He noted one obstacle for the budget is the economy, and at Council's Retreat staff indicated it anticipated a \$2.7 million shortfall for the coming year. He noted to help address the shortfall he instituted a rolling freeze for positions as they became open. He stated now the freeze has been expanded, and only essential positions are filled. He indicated this created approximately 35 vacant positions, and noted early retirement was also offered to employees. He stated the City has a Reduction in Force policy based on experience, performance, and essentiality, and a Reduction in Force was instituted for 43 positions, and 11 part-time jobs. Mr. Treme noted by implementing these measures it helped offset the budget shortfall by approximately \$2 million.

Mr. Treme stated the State balanced its budget with Federal Stimulus funds last year and this year those funds are gone and some of the things happening in Raleigh are having a negative impact on local governments. He noted the State Retirement System mandated percentage has increased, along with Worker's Compensation premiums and utility costs, and the City had to absorb \$610,622 in these costs. He stated staff worked hard to reduce the budget to meet the shortfall.

Mr. Treme indicated the revaluation has also had a major impact on the proposed budget. He commented because the County Commissioners decided not to delay the revaluation, the value of the City's property is \$200,000 million less than it would have been. He noted if the revaluation would have been delayed he thinks the values would have had a chance to recover, and the proposed budget would be balanced with no tax rate increase. He added because the revaluation lowered the property tax values, a \$.052 tax rate increase is recommended in order to remain revenue neutral. He pointed out the rate increase will produce no more money than last year. Mr. Treme stated if a property owner's value decreased 8% or less they will see a tax decrease, but if it decreased less than 8% the owner will see an increase. He indicated at the last revaluation the City's tax rate decreased \$.025 cents to be revenue neutral, and this is the first time he has ever seen a revaluation produce a decrease in property values. He stated if the \$.052 rate increase is cut it would be equivalent to 27 additional jobs, or cuts in other areas as chosen by Council.

Mr. Treme indicated a 2.86% rate increase is proposed for the Water and Sewer fund. He noted there have been questions as to why the City would take over the China Grove utility system, and he stated China Grove has spent several million dollars making improvements to its system over the last several years. He commented after evaluating the system, staff feels it would be in the City's best interest to assume operation of the utility. Mr. Treme stated the utility rates are still comparable with surrounding utility systems. He noted five Salisbury-Rowan Utility positions were eliminated through the Reduction in Force, and capital expenses have been cut.

Mr. Treme stated there are no rate increases proposed for the Fibrant fund. He noted staff anticipates achieving its 1000th customer by the end of May, and new customers continue to sign-up each day.

Mayor Kluttz convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the proposed FY2011-2012 City budget.

Mr. Bill Wagoner, 605 Confederate Avenue, urged Council to consider an ad valorem tax rate less than \$0.642. He noted disposable income is down in the County, and the employment rate has not improved. He stated this community has a lower educational attainment level and a higher average age than surrounding communities, and the ability of citizens to pay will recover slower than any surrounding communities. Mr. Wagoner stated over the last 10 years property values have risen 45% and during the same time revenue from ad valorem taxes has risen 55.1%. He stated this shows a tendency for an increasing take of the ability of citizens to pay based on the value of the assets they hold, and he does not think this is sustainable over decades. He pointed out the ability to pay is critical.

Mr. Jerry Shelby, Salisbury, stated for the last 12 months his water bill had six minimum charges even though he had zero usage. He noted his garbage fits into a grocery bag and he does not put his green bin out, but shares with his neighbor. He stated he recycles to keep items out of the landfill, but the rate keeps going up. He commented it costs more to haul away the empty containers than what he paid for the original product. Mr. Shelby indicated many garbage cans in his neighborhood are overflowing, yet they pay the same rate when his trash only fits into a grocery bag. He recommended charging by the number of persons in a household, or by charging for water usage. Mr. Shelby stated 44% of the citizens are below the poverty level, but the Water department has received an increase each year. He questioned if this indicates the department is inefficient. He stated there has not been a social security raise in over three years, and the people least able to afford the increases are the ones affected.

There being no one else present to address Council, Mayor Kluttz closed the public hearing.

City Clerk Myra Heard indicated budget worksessions will be held Thursday, June 9, 2011, and Friday, June 10, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell clarified that Council will meet on June 10 only if required. Ms. Heard indicated this is correct.

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Appearance Commission

Upon a **motion** by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Woodson, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller and Woodson and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voting AYE, the following appointment was made to fulfill an unexpired term on the Community Appearance Commission:

Mr. Jonathan Cerny

Term expires 3/31/12

Historic Preservation Commission

Upon a **motion** by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller and Woodson and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Historic Preservation Commission:

Ms. Clara Corry

Term expires 3/31/14

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Kluttz opened the floor to receive public comment. There being no one present to address Council, Mayor Kluttz closed the floor for comments.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) Main Street Grant Application

City Manager David Treme indicated he received a Resolution from Mr. Randy Hemann, Executive Director of Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI), in support of an application for a Main Street Solutions grant. He stated the grant would be used to supplement DSI efforts for the Empire Hotel and other projects. Mr. Treme noted the Resolution designates him as the agent authorized to make the application on behalf of the City. He pointed out the application is due May 20, 2011, and he thinks it is important the application be submitted.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve the Resolution in support of application of the Main Street Solutions Fund Grant. Mr. Woodson seconded the motions. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY IN SUPPORT OF THE MAIN STREET SOLUTIONS FUND GRANT.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 14, and is known as Resolution 2011-15.)

(b) Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Application

City Manager David Treme informed Council staff is applying for a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant to seek funds to retain current Police Officer positions. He noted the grant will be 100% for three years, for four officers. He stated during the fourth year the City will be required to retain the officers. Mr. Treme pointed out the City has received other COPS grants in the past, and he recommended Council authorize personnel to apply for the grant.

Councilman Miller asked about the source of the grant funds. Mr. Treme indicated the grant is a federal grant from the United States Department of Justice.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked if these funds have been what enabled the City to retain its resource officers at schools in the past. Mr. Treme responded this is correct. He noted the City has also received grants for Fire Fighters, but they were funds to add positions rather than retain them, and the grants had to be turned down given the economy.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve City Manager David Treme to make this formal grant application for the COPS program. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Rowan County Peace Officer Memorial Service

Mayor Kluttz reported the Rowan County Peace Officer Memorial Service was held today at 12:00 Noon at First Presbyterian Church, 308 West Fisher Street. She noted it was a very touching ceremony, and she was proud of the law enforcement officers who participated. She indicated a video of the service is available on the City's website www.salisburync.gov.

(b) Let's Get Connected Day

Mayor Kluttz announced the Covenant Community Connection will host "Let's Get Connected Day" Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Kelsey Scott Park, 1920 Old Wilkesboro Road.

(c) Technology Matters Event

Councilman Miller announced Rowan-Salisbury Schools will hold a "Technology Matters" event Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at North Rowan High School. He noted this is an open house for the community to see what technology applications are being provided the schools.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Kluttz indicated a motion is needed for Council to go into closed session concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

Thereupon, Mr. Woodson made a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Thereupon, Mr. Woodson made a motion to come back into open session. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Kluttz announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Woodson, seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.


Susan W. Kluttz, Mayor


Myra B. Heard, City Clerk